History of programmers & contributors

266379_PixelRule.tiff ¬

TaskArrowSm.tiff ¬ First off, Kodak invented the photo CD. Photo CD's store photographs in a special file format on something which is basically a CD-ROM disc. Kodak has software which can process those special file formats on the photo CD, but that software is (currently) not available on the NeXT platform.

paste.tiff ¬ danisch.ira.uka.de.tiff ¬ Then a fellow named Hadmut Danisch of the University of Karlsruhe figured out

enough of the file format of photo CD's that he wrote a unix program which could process the files.   There are still some parts of the format which he has not figured out, so the results of the program are may not   be completely correct.   However, it seems to do a good job at processing the images, and certainly does much better than all the other alternatives currently available on the NeXT platform (there are none, at the moment I write this).

His program is called hpcdtoppm, and the original source of version 0.3 of that program is included with the source code for pCD.app.

738668_paste.tiff ¬ rlp.lanl.gov.tiff ¬ Then a fellow named Dick Phillips decided to take that regular unix command-line program, and write a NeXT user interface for it. He released this program just before Christmas of 1992. I am currently bugging him for a better photograph, as the advent of photo CD should make it possible for us to have really fancy face-tiff's here!

The person in the icon for pCD.app (and in the info panel) is Dick's granddaugher, Erin. Erin did not do any of the work on pCD, but if you click on the icon in the Info panel you can hear her saying ªHello Papaº.

660260_paste.tiff ¬ gad.eclipse.its.rpi.edu.tiff ¬ Then there's me. I'm the self±appointed president of the RPI NeXT User's Group, among other things. RPI is a college located in Troy, New York, USA. I work here at the computer center, with the job title of ªSystems Programmerº.

I've been saying I wanted to program the NeXT for about 18 months, so I decided that I would take some vacation time in late December and early January to work on a NeXT-related project. Dick's program and my NeXT CD±ROM drive arrived right when I planned to do this. I also had a photo CD, and a Tektronix Phaser III color printer that I was supposed to be testing. I

figured it would be much more fun to test the printer with color images than with random text files where I had different random words in different random colors.

So, I latched onto Dick's pCD application and started to add whatever features came to mind.   In the past I have been accused of Creeping Featurism, and I'm just getting warmed up in things I'd like to implement in pCD.   Of course, I don't know when I'll next have the time to work on this, as I do have a lot of other things I'd also like to program on the NeXT.

624691_TaskArrowSm.tiff ¬   I wasn't the only person who was

interested in Dick's application.   After I made my first set of changes available to other people, several others contacted me with versions they had been working on.   So far I've only incorporated a few ideas from a version sent to me by Hugo Burm.   Other people who have used pCD have also sent me suggestions, a few of which are implemented.

73107_PixelRule.tiff ¬